Setting up of High Powered financial committee over ONGC

1482. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the general response to the proposal of Government to set up a high power committee with financial powers to take investment decisions beyond the powers of the ONGC; and

(b) what are the salient features of this proposal and by when this Committee is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) As per the present Memorandum of Understanding, delegation of additional financial powers to ONGC are to be considered in respect of replacement and renewals of assets, additions and new investments and release of foreign exchange. Establishments of an Empowered Committee would be considered only after comprehensive proposals are received from ONGC for achievement of 8th Plan targets for oil and natural gas.

Foreign collaboration for oil exploration

1483. SHRI T. R. BALU:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the countries which have offered financial and technical assistance to India for oil exploration and what are the details thereof, countrywise;

(b) how many oil wells have been developed so far with foreign expertise and technical collaboration; and

(c) how many oil wells are in the process of development in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Financial and technical assistance have been offered/rendered for different exploration activities like surveys, basin modelling, drilling, etc by USSR, U.K., Canada & France.

(b) and (c) Contracts have been signed with USSR under Intensive Integrated Exploration Programme in North Cambay, Cauvery and West Bengal basins under Soviet assistance. 73 wells are to be drilled under the Intensive Integrated Exploration Programme. So far nine Wells in Cambay basin and two wells in Cauvery basin have already been drilled. Two wells in Cambay basin, three wells in Cauvery basin and one well in West Bengal basin are currently being drilled.

Hearing by price review committee relating to drugs

1484. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1607 and 1623 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th May, 1989 and state :

(a) what are the names of drug companies and names of drugs involved for which Price Review Committee gave hearing;

(b) what was the price recommended for each drug;

(c) whether it is a fact that M/s. Glaxo was not involved in litigation in the Supreme Court;

(d) if so, how the committee heared their representations even by going beyoud the terms of reference; and

(e) on what basis the committee recommended increase of price of Betamethasone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. NAMGYAL): (a) The

details of companies and the drugs for which the Price Review Committee was requested to hear the Price Review Applications are given in the annexure.

(b) Detailed information shall be laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha after the Price Review Committee has completed the work.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) It was subsequently decided in May, 1988 that hearing to M/s. Glindia Ltd. shall also be given by the Price Review Committee constituted to hear price review applications of companies involved in the Supreme Court case. The committee accordingly made its recommendations.

Petrochemicals projects at Madras

1485. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any letter of intent has been given to any party of Madras recently for the manufacture of petrochemicals; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the project, including estimated investment and items expected to be manufactured?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. NAMGYAL): (a) and (b) A letter of intent was issued on 16.3.89 to M/s. Linde Aktiengesellschaft for the setting up of a Naphtha cracker in Madras under the 100 per cent export oriented scheme for the manufacture of 4,50,000 tpa of ethylene and 2,20,000 tpa of propylene etc. The total investment is about Rs. 840 crores;

Production and import of Penicillin

1486. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the licensed capacity of each of the producers of Pencillin-G|V;

(b) what was the production of each unit during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) what is the estimated demand during 1990-91;

(d) what was the total import of Penicillin for the production of 6APA during the last three years, year-wise and what was the CIF value of such imports;

(e) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has failed to clear foreign collaboration proposals of Penicillin producers and as a result of which none of the projects is in the process of being commissioned;

(f) whether it is a fact that his Ministry propose to give special inducement in the matter of allotment of Penicillin to 6APA producers to boost production; and

(g) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI